Shortage of Sim Cards in Bihar

†447. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of shortage of SIM cards in every telecommunication district of Bihar;

(b) if so, the measrues being taken to meet this shortage; and

(c) by when the mobile SIM cards would be easily available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The SIM cards are available in sufficient quantities with the Bihar Telecom Circle. However, release of Pre-paid SIM cards to the field units have been controlled due to capacity constraints and to provide good quality of service to the customers. However, Post-paid cellular connections (SIM Cards) are available on demand.

(b) and (c) BSNL is in the process of expanding the cellular network in Bihar by a capacity of 4.5 lakhs lines which is likely to be available progressively from September, 2005 onwards and pre-paid cellular connections are expected to be released commensurate with the availability of capacities.

Implementation of Food for Work Programme

†448. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for constitution of a monitoring group in Planning Commission for monitoring and proper implementation of 'Food for Work' programme being run in the country is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) The principal responsibility for

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.